

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 24, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 440

Introduced by Senator Padilla

February 21, 2013

An act to amend Sections 66746 and 66747 of, and to add Section 66748.5 to, the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 440, as amended, Padilla. Public postsecondary education: Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.

(1) Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges and the California State University as 2 of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, encourages community colleges to facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other community colleges toward the associate degree for transfer. The act also requires the California State University to guarantee admission with junior status to a community college student who meets the requirements for the associate degree for transfer. A student admitted to the California State University pursuant to the act is entitled to receive priority over all other community college transfer students, excluding community college students who have entered into a transfer agreement between a community college and the California State University prior to the fall term of the 2012–13 academic year.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to timely progression from lower division coursework to degree completion. The bill would require community colleges to create an

associate degree for transfer in every major offered by that college that has an approved transfer model curriculum before the commencement of the 2014–15 academic year, and to create an associate degree for transfer in specified areas of emphasis before the commencement of the 2016–17 academic year, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The bill would require California State University campuses to accept transfer model curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the California State University degree options, as defined, within a major field, and accept transfer model curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the specified areas of emphasis referenced above. The bill would require the California State University to develop an admissions redirection process for students admitted pursuant to the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act who apply for admission to the California State University, but are not accepted into the campuses specifically applied to.

The bill would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University, in consultation with specified parties, to develop a student-centered communication and marketing strategy in order to increase the visibility of the associate degree for transfer pathway for all students in California. To the extent that this provision would create new duties for community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Since the enactment of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher
- 4 Education, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university
- 5 has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.

1 (b) Successful and timely progression from lower division
2 coursework to degree completion is a basic principle of California
3 higher education and is critical to the future of the state's economy.

4 (c) The Public Policy Institute of California projects that
5 California's workforce will have one million fewer graduates than
6 it needs in 2025, and that increasing transfer rates from community
7 colleges to four-year postsecondary educational institutions could
8 dramatically reduce the education skills gap.

9 (d) Today, one in every four jobs requires an associate degree
10 or higher. In the near future, one in every three jobs will require
11 an associate degree or higher.

12 (e) The size of the California Community Colleges and the
13 California State University systems, which have the largest share
14 of postsecondary students in the nation, allow the state to address
15 the serious projected shortage of educated workers.

16 (f) To meet workforce demands in a cost-effective way, it is
17 critical that we significantly increase the number of students
18 obtaining an associate degree while preparing for transfer to a
19 four-year college or university.

20 (g) Although the community college and state university
21 segments have undertaken tremendous efforts to institute the new
22 transfer pathway, current implementation efforts of Sections 66746
23 and 66747 of the Education Code alone are insufficient to ensure
24 that the associate degree for transfer becomes the preferred transfer
25 pathway for all students across the state.

26 SEC. 2. Section 66746 of the Education Code is amended to
27 read:

28 66746. (a) Commencing with the fall term of the 2011–12
29 academic year, a student who earns an associate degree for transfer
30 granted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be deemed eligible for
31 transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program
32 when the student meets both of the following requirements:

33 (1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are
34 eligible for transfer to the California State University, including
35 both of the following:

36 (A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum
37 (IGETC) or the California State University General
38 Education-Breadth Requirements.

1 (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a
2 major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college
3 district.

4 (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

5 (b) (1) (A) As a condition of receipt of state apportionment
6 funds, a community college district shall develop and grant
7 associate degrees for transfer that meet the requirements of
8 subdivision (a). A community college district shall not impose any
9 requirements in addition to the requirements of this section,
10 including any local college or district requirements, for a student
11 to be eligible for the associate degree for transfer and subsequent
12 admission to the California State University pursuant to Section
13 66747.

14 (B) A community college shall, before the commencement of
15 the 2014–15 academic year, create an associate degree for transfer
16 in every major offered by that college that has an approved transfer
17 model curriculum.

18 (C) A community college shall, before the commencement of
19 the 2016–17 academic year, create an associate degree for transfer
20 in areas of emphasis for disciplines including, but not necessarily
21 limited to, all of the following:

22 (i) Applied sciences.

23 (ii) Formal sciences.

24 (iii) Humanities.

25 (iv) Natural sciences.

26 (v) Social sciences.

27 (2) The condition of receipt of state apportionment funding
28 contained in paragraph (1) shall become inoperative if, by
29 December 31, 2010, each of the state's 72 community college
30 districts has submitted to the Chancellor of the California
31 Community Colleges, for transmission to the Director of Finance,
32 signed certification waiving, as a local agency request within the
33 meaning of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 6 of Article
34 XIII B of the California Constitution, any claim of reimbursement
35 related to the implementation of this article.

36 (c) A community college district is encouraged to consider the
37 local articulation agreements and other work between the respective
38 faculties from the affected community college and California State
39 University campuses in implementing the requirements of this
40 section.

1 (d) Community colleges are encouraged to facilitate the
2 acceptance of credits earned at other community colleges toward
3 the associate degree for transfer pursuant to this section.

4 (e) This section shall not preclude students who are assessed
5 below collegiate level from acquiring remedial noncollegiate level
6 coursework in preparation for obtaining the associate degree.
7 Remedial noncollegiate level coursework shall not be counted as
8 part of the transferable units required pursuant to paragraph (1) of
9 subdivision (a).

10 SEC. 3. Section 66747 of the Education Code is amended to
11 read:

12 66747. (a) (1) Notwithstanding Chapter 4 (commencing with
13 Section 66201), the California State University shall guarantee
14 admission with junior status to any community college student
15 who meets all of the requirements of Section 66746. Admission
16 to the California State University, as provided under this article,
17 does not guarantee admission for specific majors or campuses.
18 Notwithstanding Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 66201),
19 the California State University shall grant a student priority
20 admission to his or her local California State University campus
21 and to a program or major that is similar to his or her community
22 college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the California
23 State University campus to which the student is admitted. A
24 California State University campus shall accept transfer model
25 curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the
26 California State University degree options within a major field.
27 The California State University shall accept transfer model
28 curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the
29 areas of emphasis listed in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of
30 subdivision (b) of Section 66746.

31 (2) As used in this section, a “degree option” is an area of
32 specialization within a degree program.

33 (b) A student admitted under this article shall receive priority
34 over all other community college transfer students, in accordance
35 with subdivision (b) of Section 66202, excluding community
36 college students who have entered into a transfer agreement
37 between a community college and the California State University
38 prior to the fall term of the 2012–13 academic year. A student
39 admitted pursuant to this article shall have met the requirements

1 of an approved transfer agreement consistent with subdivision (a)
2 of Section 66202.

3 (c) The California State University shall develop an admissions
4 redirection process for students admitted under this article who
5 apply for admission to the California State University, but are not
6 accepted into the California State University campuses specifically
7 applied to. This process shall be aligned with the guaranteed
8 admission into the California State University system under
9 subdivision (a).

10 SEC. 4. Section 66748.5 is added to the Education Code, to
11 read:

12 66748.5. The California Community Colleges and the
13 California State University, in consultation with students, faculty,
14 student service administrators, the State Department of Education,
15 the California Education Round Table, and other key stakeholders,
16 shall develop a student-centered communication and marketing
17 strategy in order to increase the visibility of the associate degree
18 for transfer pathway for all students in California that includes,
19 but is not necessarily limited to, all of the following:

20 (a) Outreach to high schools.

21 ~~(b) Posters, banners, and marquees displayed at all community~~
22 ~~colleges and transfer centers.~~

23 ~~(c) Radio advertisements.~~

24 ~~(d) Outreach materials to students considering attending the~~
25 ~~California State University as first-year students.~~

26 *(b) Information on the pathway prominently displayed in all*
27 *community college counseling offices and transfer centers.*

28 *(c) Associate degree for transfer pathway information provided*
29 *to all first-year community college students developing an*
30 *education plan to aid them in making informed educational choices.*

31 *(d) Targeted outreach to first-year students through campus*
32 *orientations and existing student support services programs*
33 *(federal TRIO programs), including, but not necessarily limited*
34 *to, First-Generation Experience, Mesa, and Puente.*

35 (e) Information prominently displayed in community college
36 course catalogs.

37 (f) Information prominently displayed on the Internet Web sites
38 of each community college, each campus of the California State
39 University, and on the CaliforniaColleges.edu Internet Web site.

1 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
2 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
3 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
4 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
5 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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